

London *Obsewei*, simply did not know then
 liMon There
 was neither any lack of public interest nor am "degenera-
 tion/³ whether in capacity or integrity, in education 01
 manners " His defence of paihament, ho\\c\\er
 was not the
 one that would be produced, spontaneous!},
 for the M P
 who thinks greatl) of himself, 01 of the
 institution with which
 he is connected

"What the House of Commons secures for
 the people of Great
 Britain is the paramount advantage of
 being able, e\\ ei\\ few years
 to change its Government, lawfully,
 peaceably without loss of
 strength and without social disturbance "

This advantage was certainly secured, during
 the nine years
 in question, since it saw no fewer than five
 Elections—in
 1922, 1923, 1924, 1929 and 1931 but it was
 not one that
 most of his colleagues appreciated He was a
 member, so
 long as he wanted to be one, his associates
 came and went
 In this same interview he attacks the
 commonest defence
 of the institution

"To my mind, the least important function
 of the House of Com-
 mons is that to which some people give
 most weight—namely,
 that of a debating society, in which every
 point of view can find
 expression "

For mere debate, he had never cared He
 thought it futile,
 as indeed, it is apt to be, however
 entertaining, at St
 Stephen's For life there, altogether, he did
 not care As
 he said, "sixty-three is a little too late to alter
 one's habits,"
 most of all when the new habits offered are of a
 kind that do
 not appeal Some day, let us hope, he will tell
 us what he
 really thinks of the stifled and stifling existence
 of an M P
 compelled, if a Labour M P, to be in

attendance night
round the clock, yet prevented, by the physical
conditions of
his environment, from doing anything for most
of the hours
of his incarceration It is a life that has to be
endured, to be
appreciated, its enjoyment calls for traits he did
not possess
Whether, with his passion for orderly
concentrated work, his